



TOKEN HUNTER



A publication of the NATIONAL UTAH TOKEN SOCIETY,
6143 Rainy Lane, Murray, Utah 84107

Dedicated to the Collection, Recording and Preservation
of Tokens and Medals



October 1985

October's here with golden days
and chilly silver nights.
It warns us of the coming cold
when shine the Northern Lights.

Altho no special guest will speak
We've planned an Auction night
So join us on the twenty-fourth
and Bid with all your might.



Patience is the ability to throttle your motor
when you feel like stripping your gears!!

How long a minute is depends upon which
side of the bathroom door you are on.

A 30-day warranty guarantees that the
product will self-destruct on the 31st day.



A committee of three would get the most
things done if two wouldn't show up.

The only people who find what they are
looking for in life are the fault-finders.



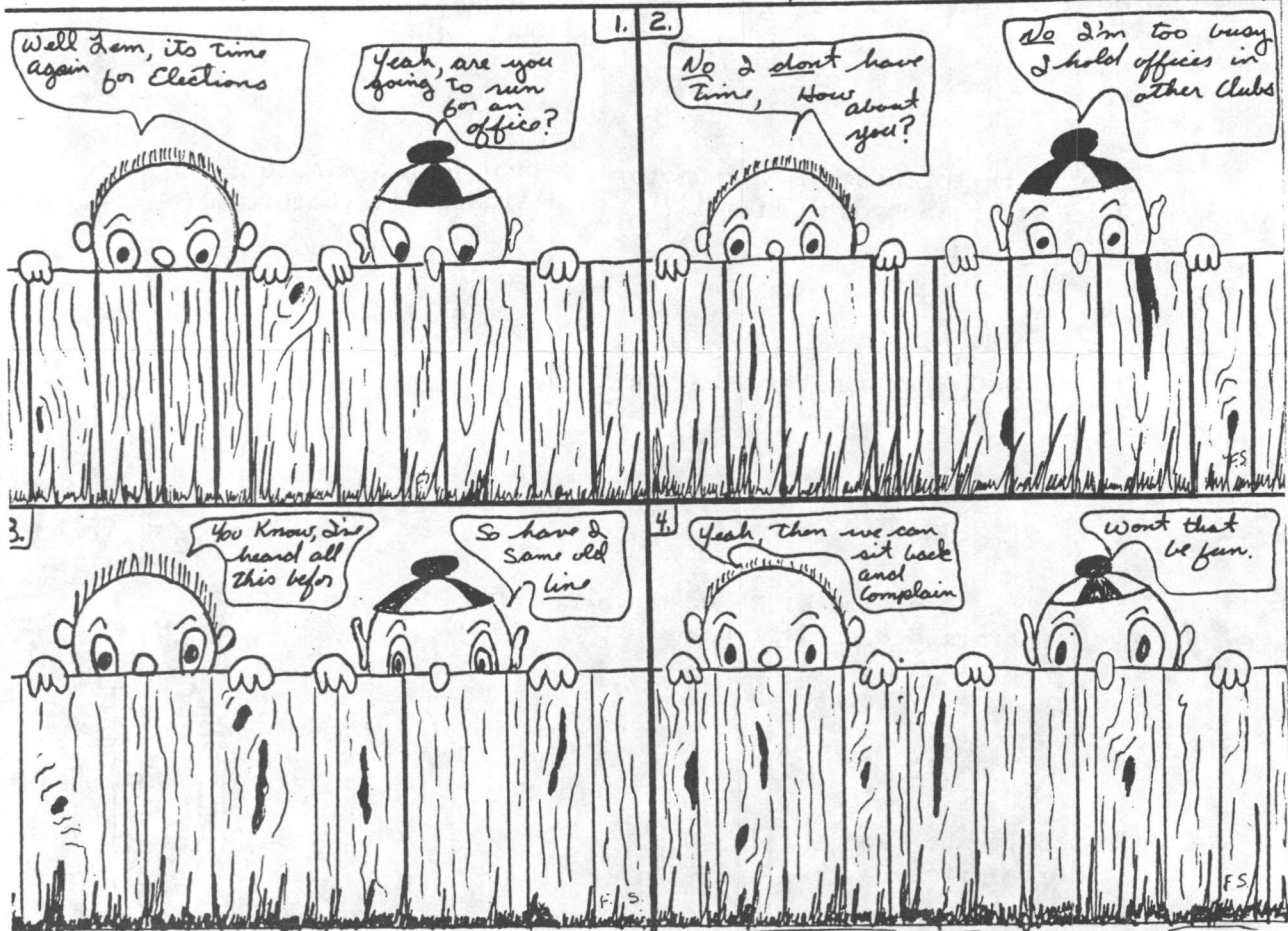


Let's get lucky !

October 24th Drawing :

1. New Century, SLC, Good For 5¢ In Trade.....R-3
2. C.H.C. Park City, G.F. 5¢ I.T.....R-3
3. Magna Pool Hall, G.F. 5¢ I.T.....R-3
4. Jimpson & Bunker, SLC, G.F. 5¢ I.T.....R-5
5. S & L Cigar, SLC, G.F. 12½¢ Cigar.....R-6

8. Lem & Jeb, The Nutter Twins



From

The



Head Nut

Dear NUTS:

Well the Fall weather has arrived. The leaves have changed color and the days have taken on a noticeable chill.

It's almost time to put away the metal detectors and start researching for next year. We've had some great Club digs this year and they have all been successful.

The milk bottle I found at West Dip now has a place on the shelf where I can display it. The coins I found at Alunite and Winter Quarters have been carefully placed in 2 x 2's and properly labeled. The two tokens my wife, Teresa, found in Kimberly are still firmly nailed to the board they were found on and they make an unusual conversation piece.

I almost hate to wait until next year!

One guy I'm sure can hardly wait for his next trip to Frisco is our wagonmaster Bryan Moulton. On the October 5th weekend, a few of us decided to try for one more good weekend and detect the old ghost town of Frisco. The big find was made when Bryan found what appeared to be a maverick token. I'm sure even the folks in Milford could hear when he found it! We were all very excited and glad Bryan had found a token in his favorite ghost town. So, if you notice a big grin on his face as he walks into the next meeting, you'll know why!

Speaking of our meeting this month, October 24th, we will be holding our final auction of the year. Several items have been already committed for sale, and our Treasurer, Frank Sommer, will once again act as auctioneer. If you have items you would like to sell, get them to one of the officers as soon as possible. You CAN bring them to meeting and if we have time and space, they can still be auctioned. This will be your last chance until next year.

Our November meeting will be held on the 21st which is the 3rd Thursday of the month since our regular meeting night of the 4th Thursday is Thanksgiving.

Our speaker for the Nov. 21st meeting will be Doug Wright. Doug, as you probably know is production manager for KSL Radio as well as a member of our Society. Just prior to the UNS Show, your's truly, along with Bob Campbell, Pat Jividen, and Kelly Finnegan were invited to be on the Bob Lee Show on KSL radio. Doug Wright was the host that evening and the topic was, of course, Numismatics. I had the opportunity to plug our group, our token show, and the field of Exonumia. Thankfully Doug made a very nervous NUTS President feel comfortable and made the whole experience enjoyable!

Doug has been very supportive of our organization and I'm sure you will enjoy what he has to say. Doug's one great interest is the town of Eureka and he has agreed to share his knowledge of this area with us.

(continued Page 4)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued from Page 3)

The September meeting was well attended and because our scheduled speaker was unable to attend we had a general business meeting and watched a video tape on the town of Mercur. Hopefully we will be able to have Professor Roberts join us at a later date.

Our Christmas Party has been scheduled for December 26th which is our regular meeting night and will be at Seaman James Bartley's once again. We need to know as soon as possible how many of you are planning to attend so we can reserve a large enough room. Be sure to read the special notice on the Christmas Party in this issue of Token Hunter.

I hope you are thinking of running for an office this year--don't forget that November is nomination month and is only a few days away.

Also the American Numismatic Association's Midwinter Convention is but a few months away and I hope every member who can will take the time to participate and help us promote our own organization. I am already involved in two committees and other NUTS members are involved with the Convention also. It's a great opportunity that may not come again.

Well, that's it for this month--see you at the meeting, October 24th.

George Wilson, President



WELCOME to new member DON KEENER, Roy, Utah, whose membership became official at the September meeting. We'll hope to see him at the October meeting and frequently if the weather permits. Maybe he and Dick Green can get together to drive down from Roy!

Charter member JOANN ROGERS is recuperating from a hysterectomy operation (with various complications) and not feeling very well. I expect she would appreciate an occasional phone call from some of her old friends. She is trying very hard to keep her spirits up and those of us who know what a wonderful person she is will be praying for her. Best wishes, Joann, from all of the NUTS!





World of exonomia

By David E. Schenkman

Round up mavericks

Does the word "maverick" evoke memories of the popular Western television series starring James Garner? Or, perhaps it sends you to the dictionary, where you learn that a maverick is "an unbranded or orphaned animal." Reading further you find that the word comes from the name of 19th century Texas attorney Samuel A. Maverick, who refused to brand his cattle.

"Very interesting," you might say, "but what does all this have to do with exonomia?" If you are a collector of trade tokens you will no doubt have a ready answer to that question. And the word will probably bring to mind memories of a few pesky tokens you purchased with high hopes and ultimately stashed away in some remote corner of your collection.

A maverick token, for the benefit of the uninformed, is one which does not contain enough information in its inscription to readily identify it. If the item in question is a trade token, this usually means that the state (and frequently the city) of the merchant who issued it are not mentioned in the inscription. Unfortunately for collectors, a very large number of merchants did not see any need for including a complete business address on their tokens. After all, they were well known to their local patrons; how could they foresee that many decades later one of their monetary substitutes would be a source of much frustration to some collector.

Trade tokens are most often collected by state of issue, and collectors will normally gravitate toward tokens from their own localities. For this reason a token that is unidentified (a maverick) usually has little value, and a dealer will often relegate it to his junk book, where it remains until some optimistic collector purchases it with the expectation of eventually discovering its place of issue.

Let's examine three typical maverick tokens. First we have an aluminum trade check with the inscription

HUGH M. GRAHAM'S GOOD FOR 1 DRINK LOMBARD & PAYSON STS. on the obverse. The reverse has only the denomination 5 within a circle of rays. Here each side of the token provides us with a clue; the obverse legend includes two street names, and the reverse is a design frequently used by the Baltimore die-sinking firm of J.F.W. Dorman. A search of Baltimore business directories reveals that Hugh M. Graham operated a restaurant and saloon in that city during the early 1900s. His establishment is variously listed at 1943 W. Lombard St., and 100 S. Payson St. (Graham didn't move; as his token indicates, he was located at the corner of these two streets.)

Our second example was even easier to identify. On the obverse of this brass token is the inscription MITCHELL & BRO. 5 HARTFORD, CO. The reverse has the date, 1875, and a Liberty head facing left with 13 stars around it. As a resident of Maryland I knew immediately that Harford County was in my state. And, the reverse again provided a clue, since it was also a product of Dorman's Baltimore die-sinking establishment. Leafing through the Harford County section of an 1880 Maryland state directory, I found Mitchell & Brother listed as fruit packers in the town of Boothby Hill.

The final token presents a greater challenge. This aluminum piece has only ABERNETHY, LYERLY & CO. WILL PAY 25¢ IN MDSE. ONLY on its obverse, while the reverse reads FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF EMPLOYEES. The only clue, at least to me, is a quatrefoil design on the reverse which is similar to designs found on some textile mill company store tokens of South Carolina. The reverse inscription also suggests this possibility, but so far I have been unable to confirm my theory. Oh well, two out of three isn't bad.

Not all mavericks are trade tokens, although without question more fall into this category than any other. The term

"maverick" can be used to describe any type of token. For example, a merchant counterstamp with only the words OIL OF ICE (this counterstamp usually is found on U.S. large and small cents) asks two important questions: what is Oil of Ice, and where was it made? To my knowledge nobody has been able to answer these questions. To me, Oil of Ice suggests some sort of ointment or skin lotion; others think it probably was a patent medicine. Whatever it was, the counterstamp will remain a maverick until these questions are answered.

If you have a token which falls into the maverick category you have three obvious options: stick it away in some box and forget about it; sell it for whatever price the market will bear; or try to identify it. The first two options present easy solutions to the question of what to do with the token. But

just suppose you sell it to another exonomist and he is able to identify it as a token from the area you are collecting — a most undesirable turn of events (at least from your standpoint) which, incidentally, occurs frequently.

An incident of this sort which comes to mind hap-

pened a few years ago when a dealer purchased a large collection of rare transportation tokens which included a complete set of all known issues from his town. He kept this "local" set and sold the rest of the collection to another dealer, from whom I bought several good tokens. One of my acquisitions was an early token, un-

listed in the 1970 edition of Atwood's Catalogue of United States and Canadian Transportation Tokens. The piece had only the initials of the issuing electric railway, and nothing else to suggest its location. Using reference books in my library, I was able to pinpoint the home of the token to the town of the dealer who had first purchased the collection. To this day my token is the only known specimen, and that dealer is still missing one piece to complete his collection.

COIN WORLD, Wednesday, August 21, 1985



This story illustrates why some collectors are reluctant to sell any maverick token. However, while it might make sense to keep all such pieces

you acquire, what good are they? Unless you simply like to collect maverick tokens as a group, they will probably remain items of frustration until identified. Yes readers, mavericks are the nemesis of token collectors. But without them, part of the fascination of this hobby might not exist. In my next column I'll discuss

some "tools of the trade" used to identify maverick tokens.

(Questions regarding tokens and medals will be answered in this column as space permits. Correspondence should be addressed to the author at P.O. Box 366, Bryantown, Md. 20617. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope if a personal reply is desired.)

DON'T FORGET!!

REMEMBER!!

The November meeting will be held on Nov. 21st which is the 3rd Thursday and is one week earlier than usual due to THANKSGIVING falling on the 4th Thursday.!!

WITH REFERENCE TO THE ABOVE, ANY ITEMS FOR THE TOKEN HUNTER WILL HAVE TO REACH THE EDITOR BY NOVEMBER 11th, SO THAT TYPING CAN BEGIN ON NOV. 12th. Anything received later will NOT get printed in November.

ELECTIONS WILL BE COMING UP IN NOVEMBER ALSO.

Think about running for office, or, about someone whom you think would be a good nominee. And while you are at it, read the little pledge below!

My Pledge

Every time I am tempted to find fault, criticize or quit the Club, I will ask: what have I personally done to improve or help the situation?

The only people with the right to criticize or find fault with a program are those who are willing to actively work to improve it.

I will remember: My Club can be no better than I help to make it; my fellow members need me and my help as much as I need theirs; if I quit, I give up the opportunity to gain any satisfaction from the group.





A U C T I O N O c t . 2 4

GOOD ITEMS ONLY WILL BE AUCTIONED!

ABSOLUTELY NO JUNK!!

NO ITEMS WORTH LESS THAN \$1.00!!!

GOING.....

GOING.....

GONE!!!!!!

(Unfortunately no list of items to be auctioned was available when this was printed. Be sure to examine the items which will be on the front table prior to the Auction!)

TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT
OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY!

Please, please make your
reservations early and,
if possible, pay in advance.

WHERE? Seaman James Bartley, 1118 East Ft. Union Blvd. SLC
(Approx. 7200 South)
WHEN? Thursday, December 26, 1985, 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH? \$8.30 each for adults, Children under 12: \$3.00 ea.
WHAT? Adults will have a choice of:

DEEP FRIED SHRIMP	HALIBUT
STUFFED CHICKEN BREAST	8 Oz. N.Y. STEAK

Children can have a choice of:

HAMBURGER	)	
DEEP FRIED SHRIMP	)	All these come with Fries, etc.
FISH & CHIPS	)	

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS BY CALLING MARY MOULTON AT 262-9664.

Payment can be made in advance, OR, you can bring it with to the dinner.
IF YOU ARE PAYING BY CHECK, MAKE IT OUT TO N.U.T.S. & give or mail to
Frank Sommer, 6143 Rainy Lane, Murray, Ut. 84107. Then Frank can make
out a check to the restaurant for all the dinners.